

**Minutes are Subject to Approval**

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HARBURY PARISH  
COUNCIL**

Held in the Farley Room, Harbury Village Hall, Harbury on Thursday 24<sup>h</sup> November 2011 Page 779

Present: Cllrs Lockley (Chairman), Thompson, Ekins, Knowles, Lewis, Mancell, Patrick,

In Attendance: Mrs N Thompson (Clerk to the Council), District Cllr R Hamburger, County Cllr B Stevens, Mrs L Ridgley (Harbury News) & four members of the public.

**11/144 APOLOGIES:** Apologies had been received and were accepted from Parish Cllrs Hancock, Summers and Thornley and from District Cllr Mann and PCSO Matthew Hodgetts.

**011/145 DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

The following interests were declared by members:-

Cllr Thompson declared an interest in item 6v, Village Hall as he is a member of the Management Committee.

Cllr Patrick declared an interest in item 6v, Village Hall as she is a member of the Management Committee.

Cllr Lockley declared an interest in item 5, Harbury Library as he is a member of the Library Steering Group and in item 12iv, Harbury Pre-School as he is a parent of a child attending the Pre-School.

Cllr Lewis declared an interest in item 12iv, Harbury Pre-School as she is a parent of a child attending the Pre-School.

**011/146 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Mr Clements spoke on the following two issues:

Following the completion of Hereburgh Way, there is an increasing amount of traffic travelling along Bush Heath Lane, often at some speed. This causes issues, often at the junction with Manor Road where parked cars also reduce visibility. The Chairman explained that the speed limit for Bush Heath Lane will soon be extended further out along Bush Heath Lane, level with the property "Henry's", and that this will help to further slow vehicles as they enter the village. It was agreed that Cllr Stevens will check with WCC when the proposed extension of the speed limit will take place and that the Clerk will request that police monitor the speed of vehicles in Bush Heath Lane.

Mr Clements also alerted the Council to the fact that the ash tree at the Fiveways junction with Bush Heath Lane and Bush Heath Road is almost certainly dead. He requested that the Council consider replacing this tree with an elm, using a strain that is resistant to Dutch elm disease. It was noted that the ash tree is the responsibility of WCC. Details of the possible replacement were passed to Cllr Lewis for further research.

**The Council resolved to move item 12iv – Grant Applications for Harbury Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and for Harbury Pre-School forward**

**in the agenda to allow for a decision to be made whilst the representatives from those organisations were present.**

Mr Tawney spoke on behalf of the Harbury Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Details of this grant application had been previously circulated to all members. The scheme has expanded rapidly since it was first formed and now needs to train seven volunteers in minibus driving, hill walking and first aid. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that a grant of £660 be made to the group, using the Power of Wellbeing for the purposes of training as laid out in the application.

Mr Murphy spoke on behalf of Harbury Pre-School. Details of this application had been circulated to members in advance. The Pre-School plans to install a canopy to its outdoor play area at a cost of £3920 plus VAT in order to make better use of that area and has currently been successful in gaining £1800 in grants and donations towards the cost of this. It was noted that the Pre-School had previously been successful in gaining a grant award from the PC for this purpose but that this had been diverted into funding for a public toilet, necessary for the completion of building works for the Wight School. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that a grant of £1000 be made, using the Power of Wellbeing. It was further resolved that Harbury Pre-School may re-apply for grant funding in the current financial year if they are unsuccessful in securing funding for this project from other sources.

In the case of the both of the above grants, it was noted that with reference to the SDC Sustainable Community Strategy, that the grants will increase activities for children and young people and improve young people's physical health.

#### **011/147 MINUTES - 27<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

**It was resolved** that the minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting** of the Parish Council of 27<sup>th</sup> October 2011 having been circulated be taken as read and signed as a true record.

#### **011/148 HARBURY LIBRARY**

Cllr Lockley reported that the steering group has now formed itself into a formally constituted group called "Harbury Village Library". The group now has a bank account and its organization is split into three sub-groups; buildings, library and café. It was noted that the Council had previously resolved to consider, pending further research, taking ownership of the building and site but that this now looked untenable. An alternative would be for the Wight School Trustees to retain ownership, with the Parish Council taking out a long term repair lease for the building which would mean that it would become responsible for repairs on the building. An advantage of this situation is that, subject to certain conditions and careful setting up of the lease initially, it may be possible for the Council to reclaim VAT on any work carried out. It was agreed that a lot of further research needs to be done on this and on the idea in principle. It was also noted that a condition survey of the building has been carried out by the Pre-School and it is possible that the Parish Council could have access to this in advance of any decision being made; in any case a structural survey would be desirable before any lease is taken out. **It was resolved:** that further research should be carried out on the possibility of a repair lease being taken out.

**011/149 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES**

- i Harbury School Governors (AW) – nothing to report.
- ii Public Safety  
It was noted that apologies had been received from the new PCSO for the village. It was agreed that Clerk should e-mail him, asking for details of when he is in the village.
- iii Southam College (SH)  
The all-weather pitch is now fully open.
- iv Twinning Association (SH)  
The Association held its AGM during November; a Christmas party is planned for 16<sup>th</sup> December.
- v Village Hall (JP)  
Work on gaining quotations and design layouts for the new kitchen is progressing. The Hall has been successful in gaining a grant of £10,000 from the Big Lottery Fund for the installation of solar panels.
- vi WALC/ NALC  
The Clerk, together with Cllrs Patrick, Ekins, Thompson and Knowles will attend a free planning seminar in February which will include information on Neighbourhood Plans. The Clerk will also attend a training event on Accounting Practice on 19<sup>th</sup> January.
- vii SDC & WCC Reports  
**SDC:** District Cllr Hamburger confirmed that he had nothing to report at present.  
**WCC:** Cllr Stevens reported that the funding formula for schools is to be revised and specialist status to be scrapped. The Localism Bill has now been passed into law and Cllr Stevens will send further details on this to the Council. The organization of Area Committees and Forums will shortly be discussed by WCC and this may lead to some changes. A decision on HS2 is expected on 15.12.11. Budgets for principal authorities are to be capped this year at 2.5% with the government making up the increase providing it does not exceed this amount; this will result in a nil council tax rise. In discussions with the Highways team, it had been discovered that Harbury has been omitted from the list for grit bin refilling. This has been corrected and the bins will be filled shortly.

**011/150 DEPPERS BRIDGE****A. Matters Arising – nothing to report.**

- i Telephone Box  
The shelves for the book exchange have been installed and have been filled with books. A short article on this will be sent to the Harbury News and to the Courier.
- ii Tesco Delivery Vehicles  
Cllr Ekins reported that he had visited Tesco in Southam and spoken to the duty manager about the problems of delivery vehicles using the bridge in Deppers

Bridge on the way to and from the store. Tesco has now e-mailed all its delivery locations to alert them to the problem; it would also be appreciated if residents could make a note of the fleet number shown on any vehicle using the bridge.

## **B Correspondence - none**

## **C Members Items**

### **i Traffic Calming**

It was agreed that Cllr Stevens would report the damaged section of traffic calming in Deppers Bridge to WCC Highways.

## **011/151 PLANNING**

### **A Decisions on Planning Applications**

#### **i Permission Granted with Conditions:**

Coventry & East Mercia Co-operative Society, High Street: Externally illuminated sign

**39 Farm Street:** T1 – sycamore: remove large suckers near base, remove limb over neighbour's property and crown thin by 30%

**Denys Close, Temple End:** Proposed widening of vehicular access and rebuild boundary wall

**Bellringer House, Mill Street:** Single storey rear extension – confirmation of permitted development

#### **ii The PC made no Representation on the Following:**

**39 Farm Street:** T3 – sycamore: fell

**Telephone Exchange, Mill Street:** Replacement of two sections of glazing with aluminium weather louvres

**The Dog Inn, Bull Ring:** T1, sycamore: Remove

**36 Temple End:** Convert pitched roof to raised flat roof and add railings, add 2 x windows to side elevations.

#### **iii The PC Made Representations on the Following: nothing to report**

#### **iv Permission Refused by SDC: nothing to report**

### **B Other Planning Matters**

#### **i Housing Needs Survey 2011**

378 returns had been received by the deadline date. The Housing Needs Enabler had confirmed that an initial analysis of the returns had shown an identified need for 34 local market homes and 23 affordable homes. The full report on the survey will be available for the January meeting.

### **C Correspondence**

#### **i Broadview: Proposed Starbold Wind Farm**

Details of a public exhibition regarding the proposed wind farm had been posted by Broadview to all homes in the parish; the exhibition will take place at Knightcote Village Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> December between 2pm and 8pm.

### **D Members Items**

**011/152 PROPERTIES****A Arising from the Minutes**

- i BMX Project – nothing to report.
- ii Playground Reports  
The Clerk queried the position of the proposed new dog bin for the playing fields; following discussion it was agreed that this should be placed at the top right hand end near to the footpath leading to Hereburgh Way. It was also agreed that, given SDC's decision to charge £100 annually for the emptying of new bins, that a service agreement should be requested which commits the District to weekly emptying and that Parish Cllrs should monitor how often the bins are emptied during the weekly playground inspections.
- iii Independent Annual Inspection of Play Areas  
Correspondence had been received from SDC stating that it will no longer be possible to carry out a free annual inspection of parish council play areas due to budget cuts. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that, given the weekly and quarterly inspection regime which is in place, it would not be necessary to purchase an annual inspection in addition to this.
- iv Cemetery Risk Assessment  
Cllr Thompson reported that the risk assessment of the remaining staked memorials had been carried out on 11<sup>th</sup> November. This has resulted in some memorials being laid down and some having the stakes removed due to them having settled in the ground since the last inspection. Three memorials have been recommended for monitoring and this will be carried out in three months' time.
- v Christmas Lights 2011  
The Clerk had reported that routine maintenance of the lights is likely to be in the region of £40 - £50 this year. It is not anticipated that the purchase of any new lights will be needed. A risk assessment had been updated by Cllr Thompson and the Clerk and forwarded to the volunteers for completion before the lights are put up. **It was resolved:** that the Clerk be delegated to spend up to £200 on necessary repairs which are necessary during the course of installing the lights including the Christmas tree lights.

**B Correspondence - none****C Members Items**

- i Footpaths' Stiles  
Cllr Thompson reported that many of the wooden crossings on the footpaths are extremely muddy. It was agreed that the Clerk would request that the Footpaths Group consider cleaning these.
- ii Bonfire 2011  
It was reported that debris from the bonfire had been put into the hedge adjacent to the skateboard park. The Environment W/P will check this.

**011/153 ENVIRONMENT****A Arising from the Minutes****i Street Lighting**

The Clerk reported that WCC had been asked to carry out an updated visual condition report on the remaining concrete columns in order to decide which need to be prioritized for replacement. Following this, three new columns with Marlin LED lanterns will be purchased as per the quotation previously received from E-on.

**ii Village Improvements – nothing to report.****iii Traffic Management**

It was noted that WCC had been asked to include the marking of the bus bay in Binswood End in its budget for next year.

**iv Update of Parish Plan: Summary of Survey Results & Agreement of Action Plan Items**

A summary of the Parish Plan results which had been compiled by Cllrs Lockley, Patrick and Summers, together with a summary of the action points identified (written by Cllr Thornley) had been circulated to all in advance. The following changes to the action points were agreed:

Village Hall should read “To continue to support the Village Hall in their major development plans”.

Community Bus: this should read “to consider supporting the community links service from April 2012”.

Vital Services: “To support the retention of vital services e.g. doctors’ surgery, chemist and post office and a vibrant library.

It was agreed that the above amendments should be included in the revised summary. Once the text for the summary has been finalised, the Council should consider producing a leaflet to be circulated to all residents. The Clerk was requested to check on the status of the grant from SDC.

**v Harbury Energy Initiative**

Residents are currently being encouraged to vote for the Energysure Initiative. Voting will finish on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**B Correspondence – nothing to report.****C Members Items****i Sewer – Constance Drive**

An intermittent smell had been reported to the Clerk in the vicinity of Constance Drive where the new sewer from Hereburgh Way joins the main sewer. The Clerk is in the process of following this up with Severn Trent.

**ii Snow Warden**

It was noted that there had been no response to the Council’s request in last month’s edition of the Harbury News for a Snow Warden. Cllr Stevens said that it may be possible for parishes to get additional supplies of grit and the use of snow blower; further details are available from Warwickshire County Council.

**011/154 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES****A Arising from the Minutes****i Review of Insurance**

Following further research into the cost of adding the streetlights to the policy on an “all risk” basis, it was agreed that the costs of this are prohibitively high at the current time. The insurers have now been informed of the remainder of changes to the policy agreed by the October meeting.

**ii Precept & Budget Setting**

It was agreed that a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Working Party will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> December in order to start the budget process for this year. This will lead to a proposal on the budget and precept for 2012/13 to be presented to the January meeting.

**iii Grant Application: Rural Mobile Youth Project**

It had been confirmed that 13 young people are currently taking the personal safety course with capacity for 20 in total. The project has been successful in gaining funding of £350 from Crimebeat and the total cost of the project is estimated to be around £1700. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that no grant funding should be awarded to this project from the Parish Council.

**vi Warwickshire County Council: Active Partnering**

WALC had requested councils’ views on a proposed “Active Partnering Scheme” with WCC and details of a similar scheme which has been adopted by Cornwall Council had been circulated to members. It was agreed that a response to the consultation should be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with Cllr Patrick.

**B Correspondence****i Community Links Transport Scheme**

It was noted that additional information on the recommended level of funding support from Parish Councils had been recently received. Discussions on this will be included in the budget setting process.

**C Members Items**

**011/155 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT Proposed by Cllr Thompson and seconded by Cllr Lockley – as per Appendix B; full details available on request from the Clerk.**

**011/156 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - none**

**011/157 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA****i Elections 2012****011/159 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Thursday 26th January 2012 in Harbury Village Hall.**

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed.....Date.....

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL